

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN  
JOURNAL

E - 350,005  
S - 543,992

FEB 11 1977

## An Admiral at CIA?

Finding the right person to head the groggy, scandal scarred Central Intelligence Agency was among the most important tasks facing Jimmy Carter. And after his first pick, Theodore Sorensen, ran into a political buzz saw, the pressure on Carter has only intensified.

Now he offers the nation Adm. Stansfield Turner, a brilliant Annapolis classmate who was later a Rhodes scholar before making his mark as an innovative naval officer. Carter calls him the "next George Marshall," a flattering reference to the general who served admirably as secretary of state.

Maybe so. Turner has some attractive, contemplative qualities. For example, he rejects the narrow view that the relative strength of the US and USSR can be reliably determined by adding up the number of ships, missiles and planes. And while we're accustomed to a civilian directing the CIA, it is not un-

precedented for a military man to head the agency. The first four directors fit that category.

However, the role of the CIA has since evolved largely into providing authoritative intelligence estimates that are an alternative to those offered by other agencies, particularly the Defense Department. Thus it can be properly asked: Does Turner truly have the bent of mind necessary to this task? Can he reach beyond his military training and take a sufficiently broad look at tumbling global events?

Of course, Senate confirmation hearings should focus on other important questions, too. There is, for example, the matter of where Turner stands on the use of dirty tricks that in the past have sometimes brought the CIA into disgrace. However, the suitability of his experience as a military man should be a central concern.